

Happy  
New Year

**SY 24-25**  
**Issue 6**  
**January 1, 2025**



# MAINE VIRTUAL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

## Dr. Melinda Browne Head of School

### End-of-First Semester, Winter NWEA MAP Growth, and ESSA Dashboard Local Information

Happy New Year from the MEVA team. We look forward to supporting students' success wrapping up the first semester. Please be sure to hand in all your assignments by Friday, January 10th to give your teachers plenty of time for grading. Go to the daily Help Desk if you need assistance or reach out directly. Most teachers are offering time within live classes for catching up as needed. As always, do not wait for the last minute to take advantage of these great opportunities.

Winter NWEA MAP Growth, math, reading, and language usage, are running January 14th, 15th, and 16th, for all students in grades 7 through 11. Graduating students will take the Accuplacer if they have not already done so. MEVA's mission and vision focus on encouraging our students' academic growth and postsecondary readiness. We measure and celebrate all progress throughout the school year.

As a high-performing, public-charter school, MEVA is serious about our meeting performance measures. The ESSA Dashboard summarizes our outcomes each year in conjunction with the ESEA grant. To view the dashboard, visit our local information page:

<https://www.mainevirtualacademy.org/essaesserlaulresources/essa-data-dashboard-local-information>

Thank you for all that you do to help MEVA accomplish our goals!



## School holidays

January 20th:  
Martin Luther King Day

February 14th - 21st  
February Vacation

## Important dates

**Semester 1:**  
**August 26th 2024-January 16th 2025**

**Winter NEWA's**  
**January 14th, 15th, and 16th**

**Semester 2:**  
**January 17th - June 13th 2025**

## MEVA contacts

Use these emails for a quick response to your questions:

**Attendance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org**

**Guidance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org**  
**Tech@MaineVirtualAcademy.org**

To submit your pet photos, shoutouts and newsletter ideas for the newsletter, please email the [Newsletter](#).



## FAFSA

**Financial Aid Information Sessions**-Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application is now open!

One of the best ways for students and families to get familiar with the financial aid process is to attend one of FAME's Financial Aid Information sessions. PLEASE consider signing you and your Parent/Guardian up for a Virtual FAFSA Help Session offered by FAME (Finance Authority of Maine).

**Jan 8- 6:00 PM** Virtual FAFSA Help Session Online, via Zoom

**Jan 14- 11:30 AM** Virtual FAFSA Help Session Online, via Zoom

**Jan 21- 6:00 PM** Virtual FAFSA Help Session Online, via Zoom

**FSA ID Creation**- Now is the time to create their Federal Student Aid accounts (FSA IDs) at StudentAid.gov. Individuals should create their FSA IDs before the release of the FAFSA so that their demographic information can be matched with the Social Security Administration. This is what allows federal tax information to be transferred from the IRS, making FAFSA completion much easier!

Federal Student Aid just released the "parent wizard" to help families determine which parents' information is required on the FAFSA and which parent(s) needs to log into the FAFSA with their FSA ID.

## Mitchell Scholarship

On December 1, we will open the Mitchell Scholarship application here: [www.mitchellinstitute.org/scholarship/](http://www.mitchellinstitute.org/scholarship/). As some of you may know, that's a month earlier than usual and you can learn more about the change on our update page. Our hope is that students can now open the application while working on college applications, and perhaps even finish the application over winter break. We also have a new series of videos designed to help them work through the application with ease and clarity.



A few key details for you and your students:

The deadline to submit the online application is March 1.

The completed application, transcript, recommendation letter, and the FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) will be due by March 1. Copies of the college acceptance and financial aid information will be due, if available, by April 1.

The Mitchell Scholarship is \$10,000.

We will award at least one scholarship at every public Maine high school – yes, your school may have more than one Mitchell Scholar!

Students are eligible to apply if they are planning to pursue a two-year or four-year degree program at an accredited college or university (in or out of Maine).

Mitchell Scholars also have access to additional funding, signature events, ongoing advising, and a community of over 600 fellow Scholars and 3,000 Alumni.

## College Speaker Series

January 13 1:00-1:50 Thomas College

This is a Virtual presentation during our regularly scheduled advisory time at 1:00-1:50 provided by an admissions counselor from the respective school as a way to share more about majors, residential life, applications, and more. Students may join the session through the link (provided on their Brightspace calendar for the day).



## Clubs at MEVA!

Did you know MEVA has a whole host of different clubs? These can greatly increase your MEVA experience and great ways to socialize!

To sign up email Mr. Fournier! Here is the weekly club schedule:

### Tuesday:

- Anime - Alex Campbell
- Animal-Bird - Meredith Priess
- Art/Photography - Lindsey Samson
- Chess - Zach Campbell
- ASL - Carrie Pierce

### Thursday:

- Gaming - Zach Campbell
- NHS meets every other Thursday - Colleen Ford/Matt Corbett

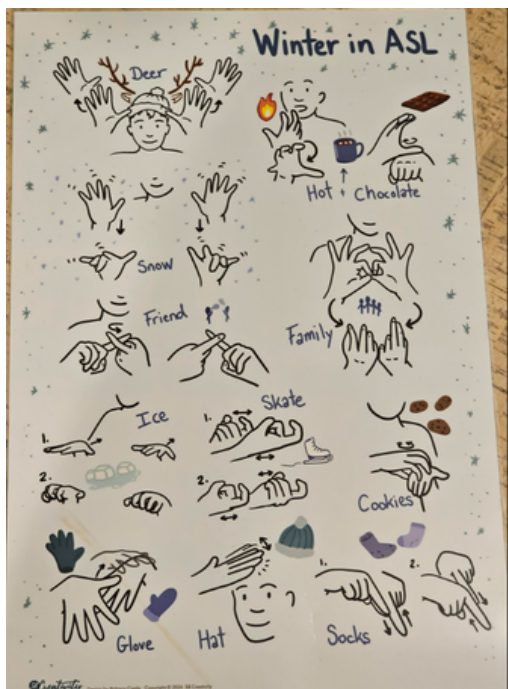
### Friday

- Prodigy - Gayle Langis
- Book meets on the first Friday of the month - Vanessa Richardson



## CLUB OF THE MONTH ASL Sign Language

20  
25



In ASL club, the teacher is Deaf and camera is required. However, we have a small group and we learn about signs related to whatever is happening. We also discuss topics related to Deaf Culture and communication accessibility for Deaf people. For January we will be learning about signs for winter.



## Newsletter Ideas

We're excited to celebrate our talented MEVA students! If you have artwork or cute pet photos to share, please send them to [newsletter@mainevirtualacademy.org](mailto:newsletter@mainevirtualacademy.org). We'd love to feature your creativity and the joy your pets bring!



## Teacher Feature

### Bethany Kennedy

This is my first year at MEVA and is my 24th year teaching. Before coming to MEVA, I was a teaching principal.

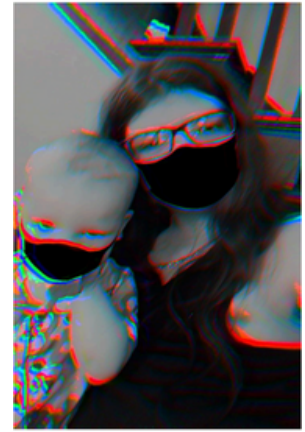
I have 3 grown children. I am a crafter. I spend every July in Pennsylvania visiting with family and friends.



## Student Feature:

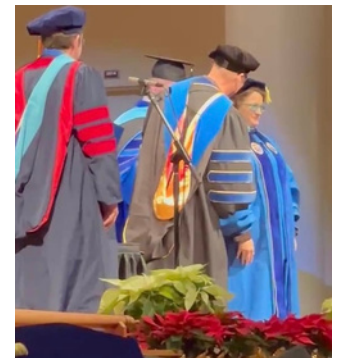
### Danny Ledoux Jr.

Hello I am Danny Ledoux Jr and my niece Kaiya is in the second pic a few things about me are i like video games like Call of Duty and Overwatch 2 i have 3 cats 1 dog the cat's names are Midnight Luna and Tiger and my dog's is named Octavia i have a very love-filled family with my mother sister dad and niece anyway have a wonderful week every one.



## Congratulations Dr. Christina O'Grady

Maine Virtual Academy proudly announces Dr. Christina O'Grady's successful completion of her Doctor of Education (EdD) in Curriculum and Assessment during the Winter Commencement ceremony at Southern Wesleyan University on Friday, December 13, 2024.



## Winter NWEAs, Academic Integrity, & Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)



We at MEVA strive to provide your student(s) with high-quality, personalized educational experiences. We do this by administering the Winter NWEAs (coming up on January 14, 15, & 16, 2024)! Please ensure that your student completes their NWEAs with Academic Integrity.

MEVA's policy is that if a student is suspected of receiving additional support (not specified on an IEP or 504 plan), such as another individual reading or answering questions for them, using AI, Google, or other generative resources, calculators not embedded in the testing platform, etc., their results can be invalidated and we can require them to retake the test with their camera and microphone turned on in a one-to-one setting.

Your students must accurately show their progress in reading and math. We use their scores to identify students who may need additional support. Any student in the 1-40th percentile on their Winter NWEAs in Math and/or Reading will be added to our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) process.

At MEVA, the MTSS process is for any student below the 41st percentile in Math and/or Reading on the NWEA. The student is enrolled in our targeted intervention course shell, FOX Rewards. Students who engage in the FOX Rewards shell can earn 0.25 credits, build skills, and fill gaps in their learning. This opportunity is available for every student, regardless of disability identification.

Learning coaches of students enrolled in the MTSS process will be notified via email by our Curriculum Coordinator/Data Manager, Dr. O'Grady. Students will be placed in a targeted small group with Mr. Corbett, Mr. Guertin, or Dr. O'Grady. This small group is required and will be scheduled based on their class schedule. Additionally, students will have access to our intervention program, i-Ready, and will work on their identified skills needs in this program. Learning coaches will be provided a monthly progress report on their student's progress.

Our goal is to prepare your student to be as successful as possible and reach their dreams! Your continued support is essential. Thank you for all that you do to support your students and MEVA!

## Advisory and Our Student Interest Survey



At MEVA, we strive to build a community of support and personalized learning opportunities. We accomplish this goal through our grade-level advisory sessions, held every Monday at 1:00 p.m. We encourage you to take advantage of this time to build 21st-century Thinking skills and get to know your teachers and peers. Another one that we support students in through our Student Interest Survey. This survey allows us to learn more about each student's interests. If you have not already done so, please complete the [survey](#). (You must be logged into your school email to access the survey). You can only complete the survey once; if you have already completed it, there is no need to complete it again.

## READING FUN

### Reading Challenge With Mrs.Pasternack

Congratulations to our winners of the November reading challenge! The 7th grade Language Arts Essentials student who read the most minutes in November was

**Coillin Shankland** who read over FIVE Tom Clancy novels! The 8th grade Language Arts Essentials student who read the most minutes in November was **Robert Beaulieu**. Robert is known to always have a book in his hand and read several hours in November.

Both Coillin and Robert were able to pick out a new book of their choice to have it sent right to them!

We will be doing another Reading Challenge after the holidays, so keep an eye out for that announcement! Some students took this time to read to their siblings, parents, and even to their pets!



### BOOKS ARE THE WINDOWS TO AN INFINITE WORLD OF WISDOM



Reading is a great way to explore new worlds, gain knowledge, and relax. Our teachers have selected their favorite books available on our digital library, SORA. at this [link](#). For more inspiration, visit the Maine DOE's Summer Literacy website at this [link](#) for various recommendations. Don't forget to check your local library this summer; it's full of books waiting to be discovered. Happy reading!



## A Message From HelpDesk!

As we approach the end of Semester 1, now is the perfect time to check your progress. Take a moment to review your grade books and work to-do lists for any failing classes or missing assignments. Staying proactive now can make a huge difference in wrapping up the semester successfully.

HelpDesk is here for you every day at 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM. This is a great space to focus on your live and/or self-paced classes, get help with coursework, and tackle your to-do list in a supportive environment. Whether you're working through challenging topics, catching up on assignments, or planning your next steps, HelpDesk is here to make your self-paced journey smoother.

Don't forget to use the HelpDesk Homework Organizer, available daily in the calendar, to create a personalized homework plan. Taking a little time to plan can help you stay on track and meet deadlines with confidence.

HelpDesk isn't just a resource—it's a community where we come together to support and motivate each other. Let's set goals, build momentum, and make the most of these 7 weeks to finish Semester 1 strong!

HelpDesk Hours:

Monday – Friday: 10:30 am (High School Only) and 2:00 pm (Whole School)

Location: <https://mainevirtual-org.zoom.us/j/84397724746>

We're excited to see you at the HelpDesk and help you achieve your best.

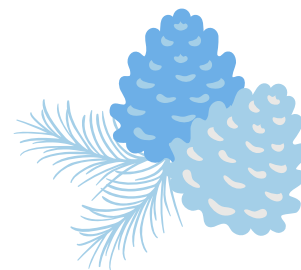
Cheers!

Ms. Hart

HelpDesk Coordinator

[nhart@mainevirtualacademy.org](mailto:nhart@mainevirtualacademy.org)

207-200-5236



## Resources for families

At MEVA, we understand that balancing academic responsibilities can sometimes be challenging, and we're here to support you every step of the way. Please check with your teachers for the last days to turn in your work before the end of semester 1.

**LOOKING FOR MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES**, please go to <https://parentguidance.org/> to explore free public webinars and information that may help!

### INSIGHTS ON GAMING

Here are some free public articles and resources for parents who are interested in this topic.

- The Positive Educational Benefits of Gaming <https://www.teachingchannel.com/k12-hub/blog/educational-benefits-video-games/>
- Resources for Parents Experiencing Gaming Addiction with Their Child - <https://parentguidance.org/courses/video-gaming-addiction/>

### HELP WITH CATCHING UP ON MISSED WORK

Also, don't hesitate to reach out to your teachers for guidance or clarification on any assignments. Our dedicated guidance counselors, are ready to assist you in navigating your academic journey, please contact 7th-9th Grade Mr. Pierce or for 10th-12th Grade Mrs. Tyler for more information.

Additionally, Mehry Mohammadi is available for further support or to schedule a team meeting. Remember, seeking help is a proactive and commendable step towards achieving your educational goals, and we're here to help you succeed.

## A Message about Child Find

Discovering Every Learner's Potential: MEVA's Child Find Initiative

MEVA's Child Find program identifies and supports students who may benefit from special education services or targeted interventions. This initiative ensures every learner receives the support they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

If you suspect your student may have learning differences or challenges, or if you have questions,

For further assistance, please reach out to: Lena Vitagliano, Special Education Administrator You can call me at **603-785-2021**. Together, we can help your learner reach their full potential and set the stage for their success!

